

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar (*Secretary to Government*).— I do not think that Government need a reminder on a point like this. Very full statements have been made by the present Diwan regarding the settlement of the Harbour question. When the time is ripe to make some statement regarding the question of Federation a statement will be made provided it can be made without prejudice to the progress of further negotiations and without detriment to the public interests.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—Has the Government come to a decision as to the question of joining the Federation?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar (*Secretary to Government*).— It has not.

Nettoor Thodu—silting of.

82. Mr. A. Narayana Menon (*Vyttila*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) are the Government aware of the silting of the Nettoor Thodu;

(b) for how long has this been going on;

(c) does not this thodu provide cheap short cut water communications to Trippunittura and eastern villages; is not its proper preservation necessary for the commercial advancement of these places?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—

(a) and (b) It was noticed in last Edavam that there was a certain amount of silting in the thodu rendering it difficult for heavily laden valloms to navigate.

(c) Yes.

License fees—Motor Boats—collection of.

83. Mr. George Parakkal (*Narakkal*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any instalment system in the levy of the license fees of the motor boats licensed in the State is practised;

(b) if the answer to sub division (a) of the question is in the affirmative, how many instalments are allowed;

(c) if the answer to sub-division (a) of the question is in the negative, will the Government consider the necessity of

allowing some instalments in paying up the license fee of motor boats;

(d) whether the Government has ascertained the practice adopted by the Travancore Government in the matter of instalments in the levy of the license fees for the motor boats?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—(a) There is no such system. Certain concessions were allowed to boat owners during some years in the past.

(b) During that period license fees on motor boats were collected in two instalments.

(c) Government do not consider that there is sufficient justification for granting such a general concession.

(d) The Travancore Government have not allowed license fees being collected in instalments this year.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen (*Kattur*).—May I know what was the justification for the Government to give this concession in previous years?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—It was done in consonance with what was done in Travancore on account of general depression.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur South*).—Does the rule permit such a concession being granted?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—The rules as they stand do not permit; but Government have got power to give such a concession.

Mr. George Parakkal (*Narakkal*).—Whether the Depression of the boat owners or the general depression?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—It is not possible to say anything about this. But I think it was the general depression.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen (*Kattur*).—May I know whether the Government take notions of depression from Travancore?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—These rules are administered conjointly with the rules in practice obtaining in Travancore and British India. When these Governments do not allow such a concession we thought it would be improper for us to introduce it here.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur.*)—In which year was this given here before?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer.*)—It was given in 1109, 1110 and 1111.

Mr. George Parakkal (*Narakkal.*)—Were there complaints from the boat-owners regarding the levy in one instalment?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer.*)—There were some representations.

Mr. George Parakkal (*Narakkal.*)—Do the Government think that this will seriously affect them if the levy of the fee is effected in instalments?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer.*)—Government have decided that this year they are not going to give this concession.

Mr. George Parakkal (*Narakkal.*)—Whether the Government will reconsider their position in view of the fact that the boat owners are getting absolutely nothing?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer.*)—I cannot give any assurance.

Mr. George Parakkal (*Narakkal.*)—Will the Chief Engineer kindly go through the question and see whether he can make a recommendation about this?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer.*)—I have already made a recommendation that this concession need not be given this year.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Anthikad.*)—May I know whether the Government stands to lose anything by giving such a concession?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer.*)—I cannot say that definitely now.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Anthikad.*)—Concessions have been granted by the Government and they ought to know whether they have lost anything.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer.*)—We have lost some money last year.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Anthikad.*)—In what way?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer.*)—Some boat owners have not paid the second instalment and

have taken their boat for repairs and they were unable to pay.

Mangayil Road and Thevara—road communication between.

84. Mr. A. Narayana Menon (Vyttila).—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the provision of direct road communication between the Mangayil Road and Thevara will not provide better facilities for the eastern and southern villages in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluq to gain access to the Wellington Island and thereby to get easy markets for the products of these villages;

(b) what will it cost the Government to connect Thevara with the newly proposed Mangayil-Nettur Road;

(c) (i) if a direct road as suggested in (a) is had, what will be the total length of it between Thevara and Trippunitura Fort;

(ii) what will be the length up to Kundannur boundary?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (Chief Engineer).—

(a) Yes.

(b) A road connection between these two places with necessary drainage arrangements will cost about 2 lakhs of rupees including L. A. charges.

(c) (i) $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

(ii) 2 miles.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon (Vyttila).—Considering the importance of the road will the Government consider the feasibility of constructing a road at least by the time the Harbour work is completed?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (Chief Engineer).—We have laid a definite programme of road construction for the next five years and after that this will be considered.

Water scarcity—Nemmara Firka.

85. Mr. R. Viswanathan Chettiar (Nemmara).—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether any representations have been made to the Government from the inhabitants of Nemmara Firka regarding the scarcity of water for irrigation purposes in the locality;